

an editorial from the March 7, 2000, Norfolk Daily News expressing concern that some public high schools do not cooperate with military recruiters while allowing universities and colleges on campus. High school students should have a full range of postsecondary options presented to them, in order to make an informed decision about life after high school.

[From the Daily News, Mar. 7, 2000]

COOPERATION IS IMPORTANT DUTY—RECRUITERS DESERVE WELCOME FROM ALL OF NATION'S PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS

Members of the Senate Armed Services Personnel subcommittee heard testimony recently that many high schools refuse to cooperate with military recruiters. It is important for members of Congress to find out why this is so, and whether a more cooperative attitude can be encouraged.

With the Army, Navy and Air Force falling short of their recruitment goals in the past year and new peacekeeping demands being put on U.S. forces, it is important that enlistments in the all volunteer force be encouraged.

Much is being done to improve pay and benefits, to improve military housing and shorten long tours of foreign duty. Provision of enlistment incentives that include funds for later college training has helped the services and the educational institutions as well.

In this free society, it may not be possible to do much about some people described by Sgt. 1st Class Elizabeth Green, an Army Reserve recruiter in Los Angeles. She told the Senate subcommittee that when visiting one of the high schools in her recruiting area, she is regularly greeted by parents who protest her presence.

Recruiters from each of the services agreed that about half of the schools bar military representatives and also refuse access to student directories that would allow correspondence with prospective enlistees. By contrast, the recruiters noted, colleges that seek to recruit high school students get full cooperation.

It is a difference in treatment that should not exist. Public high schools have a special burden to ensure their graduates the broadest possible career opportunities. Military service is an important option, and each of the branches ought to be welcomed to career days or any other similar events.

Sen. Charles Robb, D-Va., a member of the subcommittee that heard testimony from the recruiters, suggested that legislation be considered to provide some inducement for schools to cooperate with recruiters.

A different approach could be in order. With federal money playing an increasing, though still minor, role in public education, Washington ought not consider more rewards for cooperating but impose funding cuts for failure to do so. That would get more attention.

While little is said these days about patriotic duties and an obligation all Americans have to help protect the nation from overt aggression and terrorists, a fundamental duty of citizenship needs to include support of the nation's military services.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF PROCEED'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY AND MS. HAYDEE LOPEZ FOR 25 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE ORGANIZATION

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 13, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize PROCEED on its 30th Anniversary and Ms. Haydee Lopez on her retirement after twenty-five years of service and commitment to the organization.

Based in Elizabeth, New Jersey, PROCEED has assisted the underprivileged in the City of Elizabeth and Union County through comprehensive programs since 1970. As the organization prepares to celebrate this milestone, it is also honoring the accomplishments and dedication of Ms. Haydee Lopez, a woman who defines the vision and the promise of the organization.

Joining PROCEED in 1975, Ms. Lopez served as both the force and the heart behind the organization. Described as a leader, an optimist, and a believer, Ms. Lopez always set the standard at PROCEED, never hesitating to purchase supplies or necessities for clients with her own resources, or to work for "gratis" when the budget faced a financial crisis.

Ms. Lopez has served the Hispanic community, the constituents of PROCEED, and her fellow workers with pride, devotion, and professionalism. Whether acting in her capacity as Executive Secretary, Acting Executive Director, or Financial Officer, Ms. Lopez always made those around her feel that they were valued.

Ms. Lopez is happily married and the mother of two children and four grandchildren. She was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico, and moved to Elizabeth in 1970.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating PROCEED on its 30th anniversary and to thank Ms. Haydee Lopez for her unyielding dedication to the Elizabeth community. All of your efforts on behalf of PROCEED are truly remarkable and I wish you a happy retirement.

MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it's time for a minimum wage increase, it's time to help family businesses.

We are playing out the next round of inappropriate tax cuts, this time under the guise of helping minimum wage workers. A discussion on the minimum wage and small business taxes is appropriate. We must increase the minimum wage so that it at least keeps up with inflation. We can provide tax assistance to those who need it. But the two efforts should not be linked. This is a political exercise that guarantees that nothing will pass. It invites a veto.

A two-year minimum wage bill would pass and swiftly become law. Oregon's experience has shown that you can have healthy economic growth and a higher minimum wage. As Oregon's wage rate was phased in from 1997 to 1999, 57,000 welfare recipients found jobs, a 33% reduction in the total welfare caseload. Total unemployment in our state has dropped from 6% to 4.7% since Oregon's wage rate increased to \$6.50 an hour over a year ago, to become the highest minimum wage in the nation.

I am eager to work for tax reform for those who need it most: closely-held businesses, farms and woodlots. The Democratic alternative would increase the current \$1.3 million estate tax exclusion to a \$4 million per family exclusion. We could pass this kind of targeted tax bill tomorrow, but we can and should do more. The current estate tax often forces sale of assets, cutting of timber or even sale of the business itself to pay the tax. We should permanently exempt closely-held family businesses and farms from estate taxes so long as the assets stay within the family or the same closely-held ownership.

The Republican tax bill does not target those who need the most help. Only 1/6 of the benefits go to "small business." The majority of taxpayers would only see about a \$4 tax cut. Worse, the Republican tax bill commits over a hundred billion dollars in tax breaks without a budget and without guaranteed protections for Medicare and Social Security. This is a dangerous game.

I urge the Republican leadership to stop playing politics. Don't force a bill that doesn't stand a chance of being enacted into law. Give Congress the chance to vote a fair minimum wage increase up or down. Allow a proposal to help family businesses and farms to stay in the family. These are two proposals the American people support and deserve.

ORANGE COUNTY SPIKERS SENIOR VOLLEYBALL TEAM

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 13, 2000

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to congratulate the Orange County Spikers Seniors Volleyball Team for winning the bronze medal at the U.S. National Senior Olympics in Orlando, Florida. The Spikers were the only 55 and older team representing the State of California to be invited to participate in this event. I commend them for all of their hard work and dedication.

This team was formed two years ago, and has since won every Southern California Senior Olympics Tournament in Orange County, San Diego, Palm Springs, and Los Angeles.

Their valiant performance serves as a wonderful example for exercising seniors. As an avid sports fan, I appreciate hearing the exciting news and cannot wait to learn of future Spikers' successes and achievements.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge each team player. The Spikers' roster includes manager, Harold Shiffer; coach Jim Godfrey; and players Gale Kinell, Allen

Brown, Vladimir Von Rauner, Neale Davis, Al Barta and Ruben Hernandez.

Please join me in extending my sincere congratulations to the Orange County Spikers. These hard-working individuals have brought pride to their community and they deserve our praise for their perseverance and commitment.

NUCLEAR AGE PEACE
FOUNDATION

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 13, 2000

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw my colleagues' attention to the following article by David Krieger, President of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation in Santa Barbara. Although I do not agree with all of the views stated in this op-ed, it is a thoughtful and provocative article and merits a close reading. The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation does important work in the struggle to wage peace and end the threat of nuclear war, and I commend their work in this area.

[From the Santa Barbara News-Press]

THE MOST IMPORTANT MORAL ISSUE OF OUR
TIME

(By David Krieger)

There are many reasons to oppose nuclear weapons. They are illegal, undemocratic, hugely expensive and they undermine rather than increase security. But by far the most important reason to oppose these weapons is that they are profoundly immoral.

Above all, the issue of nuclear weapons in our world is a deeply moral issue, and for the religious community to engage this issue is essential. For the religious community to ignore this issue is shameful.

I have long believed our country would become serious about providing leadership for the elimination of nuclear weapons in the world only when the churches, synagogues and mosques became serious about demanding such leadership.

The abolition of nuclear weapons is the most important issue of our time. I do not say this lightly. I know how many other important life-and-death issues there are in our world. I say it because nuclear weapons have the capacity to end all human life on our planet and most other forms of life. This puts them in a class by themselves.

Although I refer to nuclear weapons, I don't believe these are really weapons. They are instruments of mass annihilation. They incinerate, vaporize and destroy indiscriminately. They are instruments of portable holocaust. They destroy equally soldiers; the aged and the newly born; healthy and the infirm.

Nuclear weapons hold all creation hostage. In an instant they could destroy this city or any city. In minutes they could leave civilization—with all its great accomplishments—in ruins. These cruel and inhumane devices hold life itself in the balance.

There is no moral justification for nuclear weapons. None. As Gen. Lee Butler, a former commander in chief of the U.S. Strategic Command, has said: "We cannot at once keep sacred the miracle of existence and hold sacrosanct the capacity to destroy it."

That nuclear weapons are an absolute evil was the conclusion of the president of the International Court of Justice, Mohammed

Bedjaoui, after the court was asked to rule on the illegality of these weapons.

I think it is a reasonable conclusion—the only conclusion a sane person could reach. I would add that our reliance on these evil instruments debases our humanity and insults our Creator.

Albert Einstein was once asked his opinion as to what weapons would be used in a third world war. He replied that he didn't know, but if there was a third world war, a fourth world war would probably be fought with sticks and stones. His response was perhaps overly optimistic.

Controlling and eliminating these weapons is a responsibility that falls to those of us now living. It is a responsibility we are currently failing to meet.

Ten years after the end of the Cold War, there are still some 36,000 nuclear weapons in the world, mostly in the arsenals of the U.S. and Russia. Some 5,000 of these weapons remain on hair-trigger alert, ready to be launched on warning and subject to accident or miscalculation.

Today arms controls is in crisis. The U.S. Senate recently failed to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, the first treaty voted down by the Senate since the treaty of Versailles. Congress has also announced its intention to deploy a National Missile Defense "as soon as technologically feasible." This would abrogate the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, a cornerstone of arms control. The Russian Duma has not yet ratified START II, which was signed in 1993.

Efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons are also in crisis. There is above all the issue of Russian "loose nukes." There is no assuredness that these weapons are under control. There is also the new nuclear arms race in South Asia. There is also the issue of Israel possessing nuclear arms—with the implicit agreement of the Western nuclear weapons states—in their volatile region of the world.

The Non-Proliferation Treaty is also in crisis. This will become more prominent when the five-year review conference for the treaty is held this spring. Most non-nuclear weapons states believe that the nuclear weapons states have failed to meet their obligations for good faith negotiations to achieve nuclear disarmament. More than 180 states have met their obligations not to develop or acquire nuclear weapons. The five nuclear weapons states, however, have failed to meet their obligations for good faith efforts to eliminate their nuclear arsenals.

The U.S. government continues to consider nuclear weapons to be essential to its security. NATO has referred to nuclear weapons as a "cornerstone" of its security policy.

Russia recently proposed that the U.S. and Russia go beyond the START II agreement and reduce their strategic nuclear arsenals to 1,500 weapons each. The U.S. declined, saying it was only prepared to go down to 2,000 to 2,500 weapons each. Such is the insanity of our time.

Confronting this insanity are four efforts I will describe briefly.

The New Agenda Coalition is a group of middle-power states—including Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, Sweden and South Africa—calling for an unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear weapons states for the speedy and total elimination of their nuclear arsenals. U.N. resolutions of the New Agenda Coalition have passed the General Assembly by large margins in 1998 and 1999, despite lobbying by the U.S., U.K. and France to oppose these resolutions.

A representative of the New Agenda Coalition recently stated at a meeting at the Carter Center: "A U.S. initiative today can achieve nuclear disarmament. It will require a self-denying ordinance, which accepts that the five nuclear weapons states will have no nuclear weapons in the foreseeable future. By 2005 the United States will already have lost the possibility of such an initiative." I agree with this assessment. The doors of opportunity, created a decade ago by the end of the Cold War, will not stay open much longer.

The Middle Powers Initiative is a coalition of eight prominent international non-governmental organizations that are supporting the role of middle power states in seeking the elimination of nuclear weapons. The Middle Powers Initiative recently collaborated with the Carter Center in bringing together representatives of the New Agenda Coalition with high-level US policymakers and representatives of civil society. It was an important dialogue. Jimmy Carter took a strong moral position on the issue of nuclear disarmament, and you should be hearing more from him in the near future.

Abolition 2000 is a global network of more than 1,400 diverse civil society organizations from 91 countries on six continents. The primary goal of Abolition 2000 is a negotiated treaty calling for the phased elimination of nuclear weapons within a timebound framework. One of the current efforts of Abolition 2000 is to expand its network to over 2000 organizations by the time of the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference this spring. You can find out more about Abolition 2000 on the web at www.vagingpeace.org.

A final effort I will discuss is the establishment of a U.S. campaign for the elimination of nuclear weapons. The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation has hosted a series of meetings with key U.S. leaders in the area of nuclear disarmament. These include former military, political and diplomatic leaders, among them Gen. Butler, Sen. Alan Cranston, and Ambassador Jonathan Dean.

I believe we have worked out a good plan for a Campaign to Alert America, but we currently lack the resources to push this campaign ahead at the level that it requires. We are doing the best we can, but we are not doing enough. We need your help, and the help of religious groups all over this country.

I will conclude with five steps that the leaders of the nuclear weapons states could take now to end the nuclear threat to humanity. These are steps that we must demand of our political leaders. These are steps that we must help our political leaders to have the vision to see and the courage to act upon.

Commerce good faith negotiations to achieve a Nuclear Weapons Convention requiring the phased elimination of nuclear weapons, with provisions for effective verification and enforcement.

De-alert all nuclear weapons and de-couple all nuclear warheads from their delivery vehicles.

Declare policies of No First Use of nuclear weapons against other nuclear weapons states and policies of No Use against non-nuclear weapons states.

Ratify the comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and reaffirm commitments to the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.

Reallocate resources from the tens of billions of dollars currently being spent for maintaining nuclear arsenals to improving human health, education and welfare throughout the world.

The future is in our hands. I urge you to join hands and take a strong moral stand for